



*J. H. Thomas*

ORIGINALLY FROM WALLACE

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ANNAPOLIS MD 21401

SENT TO GREG YOUNG & I COPIED

TRANSCRIPT OF DIARY KEPT BY J. WM. THOMAS, 1861-1865

1861

May 22. Left home on Wednesday, May the 22nd, 1861, 8.30 o'clock P. M.

May 23. Breakfasted May the 23rd at Mr. Plowden's; dined at Col. Dent's; (Note 1) from his house left for Virginia in Dr. Comb's sailboat, leaving the Maryland shore just before sunset. Reached Mr. Lampkin's, on Maddox creek, Westmoreland County, Va. about 11 o'clock P. M. Very kindly received. Started for Port Royal Friday morning, May the 24th, under the guidance of Dr. Ditty. He kindly arranged everything for us and preceded us as far as Port Royal. Dined at a private house and reached Port Conway, where we crossed the Rappahannock river to Port Royal. Very kindly entertained there while one of the gentlemen made arrangements for a wagon to take us to Milford Station, on the Richmond and Acquia Creek road. Reached Richmond about midnight on Friday, the 24th. Stopped at the "Exchange and Ballard". [Notes begin page 89.]

May 25. Enrolled in Company "B" Maryland Guards at 9 o'clock A. M. Saturday. (Note 2).

Started about 11 A. M. for camp at the new fair grounds; encamped in the swine sheds, and got along very comfortably.

May 28. Ordered off at 3 A. M., Tuesday, the 28th, and stopped in Petersburg all night. Met with a very pleasant reception, particularly from the ladies. Among the latter were Miss Mary M. Robison and Misses Delia, Ella Martha and Nannie R. Carrington. Also Miss Sarah Carrington of Richmond. These ladies were very kind in making up little things for us, and in rendering our time agreeable.

May 29. We left Petersburg about 8 A. M. May 29th under orders to proceed to Norfolk, unless otherwise directed. Reached Suffolk about 10.30 A. M. and received a despatch to remain there. Were quartered in the C. H., a fine brick building with large windows, and a fine, shady yard. In the rear was the jail, in which was confined a spy.

May 31. Friday, May the 31st, 7 1/4 P. M. started on a march of ten miles for Chuckatuck. Reached it at 10.30 P. M. having made the march in 3 1/4 hrs. including 25 minutes lost in rests. Were about to quarter in the Masonic Hall, but received invitations from several residents to go in squads to their houses to sup and lodge; accepted by the officers much to our gratification.

I stopped at Mr. Godwin's; enjoyed the supper and rested well. Much pleased with Mrs. G.; all were very hospitable. Mr. G. brought out some fine five-year-old "apple jack" which was much appreciated.

June 1. Ordered back to Suffolk Saturday June the 1st and reached there about 2 A. M. on the 2nd.

June 2. Thus far we were under the orders of Col. F. E. Thomas, the company being commanded by Capt. J. Lysle Clark with R. Curzon Hoffman as 1st Lieut., W. Stewart Symington, 2nd Lieut. and Jos. Selby, 3rd Lieut., Geo. G. Gibson, Richard Mason Barnes, Jno. W. Scott, D. Bowly Thompson and C. E. Hayward, Serpts.

June 5. On Wednesday, June 5th, ordered by Genl. Huger to take cars for Richmond on the 6th. This order was received with shouts by the men, the prevailing wish being to be stationed near Maryland, and where there is likely to be a battle.

June 6. Today, the 6th, a tug came up the Nansemond to take down two cannon. Federal troops now on the north side of James river, near its mouth, also at and near Fortress Monroe. Left Suffolk at 1.30 P. M. At Petersburg were kindly greeted by the ladies and the crowd. Marched through and took the cars for Richmond, when crossing the long bridge near Richmond, Higgins, an Irishman, being "tight" charged bayonets on a following engine and fell. He came near falling over the edge of the bridge, which is 40 or 50 ft. above the water; his legs overhung the side. This man, I hear was married to a Northern woman. He placed his wife under the protection of his family and joined us. Reached camp at night. Called for and heard Col. Gilhan. We then repaired to the pig-sties which we found quite filthy. Cleaned them out and "went to bed", which means that each man rolled himself in his blanket and lay down upon the ground to rest. Before retiring we had supper; this being some bread and molasses issued to the men, which took the place also of dinner since we had passed the day without any.

June 8. On Saturday, June the 8th, about 5.30 P. M., we marched to town with drum and fife, the musicians being a part of the cadets' band from the V. M. I. We proceeded to the Capitol Square to receive a banner presented to the Md. Line by the ladies of Baltimore. It was brought over by Mrs. Col. McLoughlin, and given to us by her, through ex-Senator Mason. Col. Thomas made a few remarks in response. In the centre of the Capitol grounds is a monument surmounted by an equestrian statue of Genl. Washington; below are three statues, Jefferson, Mason and Patrick Henry. It is a very fine monument of brown stone. The grounds are large with fine walks and two jets.

June 13. June 13th observed as a day of fasting and prayer throughout the Southern Confederacy. Late in the evening company "D" (Capt. Murray) came out and took possession of the "Horticultural and Domestic" quarters. My brother George is First Lieutenant.

June 15. June the 15th (I think) Mike Robertson's Company (C) came in and bunked next to us; Hugh Mitchell 1st Lieut. and Dr. James Bean 2nd Lieut.

June 17. June 17th I obtained a transfer to Co. "D". Sergeant Sullivan, W. N. Carr, and W. F. Smith, were also transferred.

June 18. Sullivan, Howard, Stewart and Lyon appointed Sergeants. Gilmor, Johnson, Macall and W. Lemon, appointed Corporals.

June 19. Mustered in for the war under the impression that we could not muster in otherwise. Afterwards, I believe, this was changed by the desire of the Co. expressed through the Captain.

June 20. Received a flag from Miss Rider of Baltimore worked by her own hands. She rode out on the parade ground, dressed in a liberty dress and bearing the flag. She was very small and a good horse-woman for one of her size.

June 22. Ordered to Winchester to join the First Maryland Regiment. The main part of the baggage was sent to the Central R. R. depot in the evening. I was detailed as one of the Guard.

June 23. Sunday, 6.30 A. M. companies "A" & "D" left Richmond. At the plains stopped for about 10 minutes. This was about 5 P. M. I had eaten no breakfast nor dinner, had not a cent and could borrow none conveniently. I told Mr. Chin, who kept the hotel, that I had no money and asked for a biscuit. He told me not to mind that, but go and eat dinner. I thanked him and enjoyed it very much. Reached Strasburg about 8 P. M.; slept on the piazza of the church. Left there at 8 A. M.

June 24. June 24th with six wagons, an omnibus and two stages; reached Winchester at 2 P. M. Camped 1/2 mile out on the Romney road.

June 25. Joined by eight Maryland companies being the balance of our regiment. (Note 3)

June 26. On dress parade received orders placing us in the fourth brigade with the 13th Virginia, 3rd Tennessee, and 10th Va. Regts, ours being the 1st Maryland. Also an order appointing Col. Elsey to the command of the Brigade. Another making Lieut. Ward acting Adjutant. Today we elected Corporal Gilmor Junior Second Lieutenant. George quite sick. He was taken to ex-Senator Mason's. The family was very kind to us and invited me to come and stay there as much as possible.

June 27 and 28. Dined at Mr. Mason's. Supped there on the 29th and returned to camp at tattoo. By invitation from the ladies returned for the night. Passed the sentinels by Capt. Murray.

June 30. Left the breakfast table without ceremony to answer roll-call at 8 1/2 A. M.; at 9 A. M. had muster-roll. George down to dinner. Heavy rain. Very well protected by the tent, which is a private wall-tent. Ten are in it, so we have to lie pretty close, but we find a rainy-day in camp rather disagreeable. We find visiting when we get a chance, a pleasant recreation. The ladies I met at Mrs. Mason's are Mrs. M., Miss J. M., Miss Ida M., and Mrs. Ambler a daughter of Mr. Mason.

July 1. Drilled in ranks for 2 1/2 hrs. Reveille sound at 4 1/2 A. M., tattoo 9 1/2 P. M. and taps at 10 P. M. Went to Mr. Mason's at 1 P. M. Heard day before yesterday that the Northern troops had evacuated Williamsport and moved down the river. Expect they will cross today or tomorrow (if they are not afraid) and will either attack us or Beauregard's command at Manassas Junction. We have 13700 men here and at Manassas about 38000. Rained considerably in the evening.

July 2. Clear, with a brisk breeze, cool and bracing, not much like July weather. I have been wishing to celebrate the 4th by a victory; there now seems some chance. About 1 P. M. received orders to be prepared to march at a moment's notice and to have three days rations. It is rumored that they are fighting hard at Williamsport. George is not in camp. I fear I will not see him before we start. 4 3/4 P. M. left camp. Passed through Winchester and bivouacked about 7 1/2 P. M. in a clover field; our company detailed as guards. I was on guard from 2 to 4 o'clock. Early in the evening saw a comet near the Great Bear.

July 3. Reveille sounded before I went to sleep. After reveille I had a short nap. Marched to a woods about a quarter mile short of Bucklestown, a small village called also Darksville. Had just fallen asleep with a stone for a pillow when we were ordered to "fall in". Jackson's command had had a brush with the enemy, had taken about 50 prisoners and retreated from superior numbers. They are bivouacked to the west of the village, and we to the east in an open clover field. The sun pouring down --- shaded a little by my blankets --- slept on our arms. Very heavy dew, just like a rain --- blanket got very wet. Received my first letter from mother. George came up in Sen. Mason's carriage. Not entirely recovered, but getting along pretty well. Sleeping in the heavy dew rather injured him.

July 4. Waiting to find whether the enemy will advance, or force us to advance. Nothing of importance; in the evening went foraging with two others; fell in with some morella cherries and enjoyed them very much. Had to go 2 1/2 miles to get anything to eat, then we had some nice milk, bread and butter. Had pretty heavy battalion drill over the hills and down the vales, knap-sacks and all on.

July 5. Another severe battalion drill. In the evening went to look for a sulphur spring -- found it about 3/8 mile to the S. E. of our bivouac. Bathed and went across the country to visit the cherry trees. To my chagrin found them stripped. Stayed up last night until 1 1/2 A. M. cooking. Reveille sounded at 2 A. M. We had to "fall in" with knap-sacks -- remained in ranks some time but did not march.

July 6. Went to the sulphur spring and about 1 3/4 P. M. received notice to hurry up and "fall in". The whole camp was under arms -- the enemy reported to be advancing. We expected at attack at any moment. Much to our disgust, after waiting some time, Col. Stewart commenced drilling us in double-quick. We were under arms until



5 P. M. There being no show of a fight, we then broke ranks. Had to change our camping ground, so made new straw-sheds in a different part of the field. Had a fine dinner; 3 pieces of ham, one corn-cake and one flour-cake. These George sent to me while on guard. Decidedly the best meal I have eaten since I left Winchester.

July 7. Sunday. Early in the morning received orders from Genl. Johnston stating he had offered battle to the enemy for four days; that they would not accept it; that it would cost too much loss of life for us to attack them; we should resume our former position. <sup>58 miles</sup> He complimented us and "hoped we would obey this order as cheerfully as the former one". From the bivouac to Camp Johnson our former place of residence is about 19 miles. We had scarcely any breakfast -- in fact since we left camp J. we never had more than two meals a day and sometimes only one. On the way I stopped at a farm-house and had some nice milk, bread and meat. Caught the regt. at the next rest. Stopped about two hours in the woods about 4 1/2 miles from Winchester and then took up the line of march. Many had dropped off. A Va. regt. was now ahead; as usual they marched at a snail's pace -- very tiresome. I, with others, went ahead, and arrived at camp 1/2 hr. before the company. Was put on guard that evening for the next 24 hrs.

July 8. Received a letter from Mother.

July 9. Very heavy rain; some of the largest drops I ever saw. The other six Md. companies received their tents just before the rain. Streams of water ran through some of our tents, though our special one was quite dry, the chief objection is the mud. You go out, get muddy, have no mat, and consequently soil your tent floor. This is very unpleasant as you have to sleep on it. Fired the guns off. They had been loaded when near Darksville.

July 10. Received orders to strike tents and march. Started, and when about 3/8 mile off just to our spring were turned back. Stacked arms, and awaited orders for about 4 or 5 hours then returned to our camping ground with orders to cook rations for 3 days.

I was detailed as one of the cooks. Had no dinner, but a pretty large supper, of rice cakes and meat. Pitched only two or three tents. A heavy rain during the evening. This set back the cooking very much. I and most of the company slept on the ground. I slept quite comfortably. Slept on our arms but were not disturbed during the night. The general impression seems to be that we must have a battle in a few hours.

July 11. Today pitching tents. After dress parade, obtained permission of Lieutenant Gilmor in command, to leave camp. Supped at Sen. Mason's. My first visit since my return -- received very cordially. J. S. Lemmon was with me.

Mrs. Ambler proposed that we should go to see some of her cousins. We went with their bro. Mr. Burrell (?) several ladies and gentlemen there. Mrs. Dorsey of Elkridge, Md. sung. Her voice

very cultivated, and rather sweet with great compass. The two Misses B. sung very sweetly. In return (?) several of us gave them "Peanuts", and "Gay and Happy". They seemed to enjoy it. I spent a very pleasant evening, and returned about 11 P. M., desiring to have many such.

July 13. Rained in the evening, and this prevented me from spending a pleasant evening at Sen. Mason's.

July 14. Had battalion inspection of arms, accoutrements, ammunition, knapsacks, and general appearance. In the evening regiment passed in review.

July 15. Struck tents, and encamped about 3/4 mile from Winchester on the Darksville road. Remained there until Wed. evening (17th) awaiting an attack. We then received notice that Patterson was on the march via Harper's Ferry to unite with a division from Alexandria<sup>SA</sup>

July 17. Received orders to march to Manassas Junction, and left about 5 P. M. Marched all night, and reached the Shenandoah (15 m.) via Millwood.

July 18. Forded the river, and marched all night. Reached Paris, Friday morning (19th). The greater part of the troops took the direct road to Piedmont, to take the cars. We, expecting to march all the way, took the Manassas road. At Upperville, heard that we also must go to Piedmont. Reached it Friday night (19th) and slept in the bottom.

A great many troops were there, and was quite a dirty place. Upperville to the river is 8 1/2 miles. Upperville to Piedmont is 4 miles. The whole march then was 27 1/2 miles. Saturday, we were marched up on the hill and in the woods. Here, as a very unusual circumstance I note that we had both shade and water convenient. Slept out on the hill.

July 21. Sunday. Started about daybreak in cars for Manassas Junction, which we reached about 11 1/2 A. M. The two armies had been fighting all day about 4 miles from the breastworks, which are at the Junction. We were ordered immediately to the battle field. The fire was tremendous. Our brigade when inactive laid down. The balls were whistling over us. We attacked the enemy on their right flank and made a complete rout. Beauregard said the "Maryland Brigade", as he called it, "arrived in the nick of time and saved the day". The enemy retired precipitately. Marching about on the battle field fatigued us a good deal (Note 4). We were then bivouacked about 2 miles on the other side of the Junction. Rained in the night a little but George and I were protected by a blanket which I took from the field.

July 22. Rained incessantly. We had no shelter except some arbors covered with oak which the South Carolinians had left. Wringing wet all day, and up nearly all night.

July 23. Before day marched for Fairfax Court House. The mud was terrible. Before this, the dust had been about 4 inches deep. The distance marched about 15 or 16 miles. When on the battle field men were picking blackberries. At one time the enemy were firing at us from a distance of not more than 30 or 40 yds., but we were mutually hidden by a thick pine.

Since the battle, we have literally been living on the enemies' provisions, which were much better than any we ever had. Just before we were living on little or nothing.

All along the route the road was strewn with things thrown away. A great many wagons were left behind, some filled with ammunition, showing their haste and panic fear. While at F. C. H. picketed three times, making 36 miles.

Aug. 12. Monday, moved camp to Fairfax Station. About 3 miles from F. C. H. Quite muddy. Rained heavily while marching, bad weather all day and night.

Pitched tents in open field about a 1/4 mile from water. 141 miles

Aug. 21. Cleared up last night for the first time since we arrived at this camp. Mike Robinson's Co. came in last night to join our regiment. Appeared to be a fine company numbering 75. (Note 5).

Aug. 26. Monday evening, ordered to march. Twice before we had marched out about 2 miles, rested and returned; but this time there was no false alarm.

We went to Mason's Hill, about 2 miles from Anandale, and 11 from this camp. We arrived a few moments before dawn. Several of our companies were ordered to Munson's Hill, which was held by the Yankees. Part of Longstreet's brigade was there also. The hill an important one was taken.

Hugh Mitchell was wounded in the heel, but not very seriously. Our company was kept back as a guard for Mason's Hill. This name was given to the hill on which stands the residence of Sen. Mason's brother. It is a very pretty place, from which Washington and Alexandria are visible.

I there had a view of the Potomac and of the Md. banks. This was a pleasure, but I longed to set foot on them. I was not on Munson's Hill, but I understand it overlooks the streets of Washington.

Aug. 28. We came back to camp, being relieved by a part of our brigade.

Sept. 1. Sunday. On picket at Burke's Sta. 14 miles from Alexandria, and about 3 from here.



Had quite a pleasant time, not much to do, and a fine place to stay. Mr. Marshall's house at the Station is surrounded by oaks and a very pleasant yard. I enjoyed the shade very much as also the green grass. He served meals to us at 25 cts. which were real treats to us. How time flies!

I have been in Virginia upwards of three months. I expected to be in Md. ere this, yet the time has seemed short but how glad I will feel when once I step on Md. soil and once more grasp the hands of those I love. God grant I may be spared to do it.

I think the chances are, that we shall move forward soon, but further will not venture an opinion even to myself. I am not tired of this life, and rather enjoy it, but do not enjoy not seeing my friends and relatives. I often think of one and all, and wonder if they think often of me. I have not had a letter for some time, but this may not be their fault. Well! I can only hope, and do my duty here.

Sept. 11. Wednesday. Reveille sounded much before light. We were ordered to prepare to march.

Arrived that evening at Falls Church. Marched toward Lunenburg, about 1/2 mile and halted.

An attack had been made, and we were to act as a reserve. Raining considerably. After a short time, our troops returned successful. Had taken a lieut. and one or two privates. We had two pieces of artillery, the enemy had eight. 187 miles

Sept. 12. Ordered to Upton's Hill about 1 m. from Falls Church, to relieve the 10th Va.

Upton, I understand went to Congress as Union candidate on 14 votes. We quartered in his house.

Sept. 13. A slight skirmish. Took Hall's Hill and two others. 4 prisoners. No loss on our side. Our Co. was occupied flanking one of the pieces. As the Yankees do not now charge batteries, we did not fire, nor charge.

Burned 2 or 3 houses.

Sept. 19. Thursday, about 10 P. M. arrived in camp. Geo. (my brother) still at the 4 mile Tavern. He was left there, on our last return, to recruit after a spell of bilious. Doing very well. 199 miles

Sept. 20. Went to Burke Station to bathe. Had a fine wash and ate a very good dinner.

Sept. 27. Geo. came to camp.

Not improving, on the 29th Geo. obtained a furlough and went to Charlottesville.

Sept. 30. Ordered to report at Fairfax C. H. with 5 days' rations. Having reported without provisions we were sent to Accotinck Creek, on the "Braddock Road". Out on picket, &c.

186 m.

(NOTE: Page 23 Line 13 "While . . . 36 miles". This was entered in a note in diary but seems to have been left out in the computation, so to avoid trouble I go back to the diary headings and will not add this 36 miles.)

Oct. 15. Have been under marching orders for some time. I went to the Station with Ned. He was sent to the hospital at Manassas. I returned about 11 P. M. Found all the tents struck. We had orders to burn all we could not carry.

Oct. 16. About 3 1/2 or 4 A. M. started. Our Col. even did not know where we were going. Finally came to Centerville on the Little River Pike and encamped about 1 mile S. W. of the village.

Oct. 17. Some of the troops between us and the village are striking tents. Report says the Yankees are advancing. The one apparently confirms the other, but I know not the truth. No truth in it.

Nov. 10. Marched at 7 A. M. to within 3 miles of Pohick Church. By our route I think it was at least 20 miles. We had no breakfast, dinner nor supper. We were eating raw turnips, raw cabbage, raw turnip-tops; in fact anything we could lay hands on. We had meat for the night, but it was stolen.

Nov. 11. We returned to camp by a route of 15 miles. Nothing to eat until we arrived at camp about 3.40 P. M. I with a few others left ranks pretty early and got breakfast at Mr. Hollins'. (?) When he heard we were from Md. he wished to give us back the money but we would not take it. I can not account for our march. Rumor says it was to cut off some Yankees but they ran too soon.

229 miles

Nov. 14. Went on picket about 3 1/2 m. from Centerville, midway between the Warrington and Little River Pikes. Rained part of the time, then cleared up with a cutting northwester. Very short of provisions. Obtained meals at various places.

231 1/2 miles

Nov. 18. Monday morning, started off with 6 others to get breakfast at Ross', about 2 1/2 or 3 miles from reserve. Drank some whiskey there better, I think, than any I had seen before in Va. Had a very plentiful meal and enjoyed it. On returning to the reserve found our relief there. Started soon after for camp.

Dec. 18. Paid off for 2 months, viz., Sept. and Oct.

Dec. 19. (Thursday) We struck tents and moved camp to about 2 1/2 m. from Manassas on the Alex. & Orange R. R.

Dec. 24. Commenced building winter quarters about 1/8 of a mile north of our camp.

Dec. 25. Xmas. To me very dull. Nothing to do. No friends to see and no merry-making. The only difference from other days was more men were drunk. Nearly all the camp was in that condition.

Dec. 26. Went on picket at Ox Road Hill No. 6 our old picket station about 9 miles from camp. Went to Ross' three times for meals and was <sup>250 m.</sup> well satisfied.

Dec. 28. Went over and was fired at by our pickets, but kept on. (Ross' being outside the line).

Dec. 29. Picket relieved.

1862

Friday, Jan. 24th. Had orders to strike all tents and move to winter quarters "Camp. Md." Moved into our home. It was not finished. However, during the day, we succeeded in chinking and daubing nearly three sides, building the chimney and spreading tents over instead of a roof. It commenced raining early in the evening. The impromptu roof leaked, but still it was quite comfortable. The chimney not being daubed smoked when the wind puffed, but drew well generally.

Feb. 3. Started on picket down the railroad.

Snow commenced falling about 4 hours before we started. Snowed all day and part of the night.

Our company was on outpost and had two rooms for quarters. Took most of my meals at an Irishman's. His "Old Woman" was very kind-hearted and gave us provisions in profusion, coffee in large bowls. Thursday it commenced raining while I was on guard,

Feb. 6. About 12 M. we started for camp. <sup>267 miles</sup>

Feb. 8. I enlisted for two years or the war.

Feb. 9. Sunday. With about 100 of our regiment, I arrived in Richmond on furlough. Stopped at Blacklock's "Monument House". (Note 6). Met Mr. Hagerty of Texas. He gave me an account of his part of the country, and of stock raising. Liked it very much.

While in town, met Gen. Loring and Col. Jenifer.

Feb. 12. Started with Capt. Joe Forrest, and seven others, carrying 33 horses. Took a road a little out of our way. After proceeding about 3 1/2 miles we concluded to try driving the horses, instead of leading them. We first turned them loose near a "Meeting house". They scattered around it, and were quite playful, giving us a good deal of trouble to start them. We had not driven them more than 1/2 mile, when our road turned off short to the left. Owing to mismanagement they could not be turned in and scattered themselves through the woods and down the straight road. After collecting 15, I and a Mr. Everet were sent through the wood in search of others.

We found 8 at Mrs. Vaughn's, where the servants had tied them up. We went in as it was late, introduced ourselves and asked for supper.

Mr. Vaughn was absent, but Mrs. V. very cordially granted our request. We supped with a family consisting of Mrs. Vaughn and two daughters. She desired us to spend the night. I was sorry I could not. After supper, we bridled up, and went to Mr. Adam's, the rendezvous for the night. Slept in a feather-bed and caught a bad cold. This is the fourth night I have slept in a bed. Every morning I woke up with a bad cold in the head, it generally wore off during the day. (Note 7).

Feb. 13. Found we had all the horses except one; could not get him.

Took dinner at the "old Church", a small village, which takes its name from an old plank building, now nearly fallen to pieces. After dinner, we started for Aylett's where we arrived about 8 P. M.

Quite a considerable village. On this road we crossed Pomonky.

Feb. 14. Left pretty early, crossed the Mattaponi and reached Tappahannock about 1 P. M.

This seems quite a nice little town on the Rappahannock, 60 miles from Richmond.

Feb. 15. Crossed 5 horses over the ferry. The boat used is about 35 feet long, with about 9 foot beam. The horses have to be jumped into it.

Feb. 16. Sunday. Expect to cross three or four loads. Crossed all the horses, taking 8 at one load.

Feb. 17. Went over in the rain, expecting to go on to Warsaw (6 miles). As it came on to rain pretty heavily we built a fire in one of the rooms at the ferry-house, dried ourselves and smoked a pipe.

When the rain held up we started for Warsaw -- 6 miles from the ferry. We reached it about 2 3/4 P. M., fed our horses and proceeded to dinner. Concluded to stay all night. Warsaw is the county town of Richmond county.

Feb. 18. Left about 9 A. M. and reached Heathsville about 1 1/2 P. M., 20 miles from Tappahannock and 80 from Richmond. Bad weather for the last three days, trees all coated with ice. In the evening commenced singing, with some of Forrest's men, one of whom, Carberry, was with Richard. After singing some time, I, in joke, proposed a serenade. C. took it immediately, and out we went. Serenaded several, who seemed to enjoy it. "My Maryland" was the song.

Feb. 20. Went to the Hague on business for Capt. Forrest, my own desire being to see Miss N. N. Stayed at her mother's all night.

Feb. 21. Returned to Heathsville, with Mr. Taliaferro and Dr. Brooks, having spent a very pleasant time.

Feb. 23. Dr. B. had the horses brought out. Mr. T. kindly offered me his. B. and I started for a ride and concluded to go to Col. Claybrook's. We dined there and at his invitation stayed all night. Liked his sentiments very much and enjoyed myself in a quiet way.

Feb. 24. Returned to Heathsville. Capt. Forest sent us (Tom Blackiston, Perry and I) to the Quarter Master saying that we could draw for the service rendered him. Each drew \$10.50 for our 7 days' assistance. In the evening went out with Dr. Smith to his place. Spent a very pleasant time.

March 3. Drove up to Heathsville with Dr. Smith and Tom to meet the conveyance we had engaged to take us to Mrs. Nelson's. We arrived there about 3 P. M. The charge was \$10 for both.

March 4. Spent this evening at Mr. Brown's. Met Miss Ellen Griffith.

March 5. Spent the day at Dr. Tyler's.

March 6. At the "Glebe", Mr. Chandler's.

March 8. In the evening called on Miss E. Griffith, for the length of which visit I had to apologize the next day.

March 9. To Nomini Church.

March 10. Drove to Nomini Ferry with Miss N. and her aunt, Miss C., expecting to go to Westmoreland C. H., but the wind was too high so we returned.

March 11. Started about daylight for Carter's wharf which we reached about 10 1/2 A. M. On the way passed through Montross (W. C. H.) The "Virginia" arrived about 4 1/2 P. M., having been detained at the Union Wharf on account of the number of soldiers coming up. Left the wharf about 5 1/2 P. M. Reached Fredericksburg about 1 1/2 A. M. Found that all the houses were crowded, there being 30,000 men from Evansport, Occoquan, Dumfries, &c. So bivouaced on deck until morning.

March 12. Went up town. Could get in no hotel or boarding house, so went to the "Shakspeare" to get breakfast. Started for Richmond 11 1/2 A. M. and arrived about 2 1/2 P. M.

March 13 and 14. Heard the fact that we had evacuated Manassas. Many rumors concerning our regiment. It was on picket when the troops fell back. Co. F had a skirmish which resulted in a small loss. The latest rumor (3 P. M. 14th) is that "H" and "F" had not returned to the regiment. Hence fears concerning their safety. Also a rumor that Colonel Johnston had arrived at Fredericksburg with the companies supposed to be "H" and "F". True report is that 13 of Co. F missing, among them J. H. Stewart. (Note 8).

March 15. Asst. Pro. Marshal's Office. Was with Capt. G. W. Alexander and aiding him in the office.

March 21. Undertook the regular duties of Adjutant of this post, without rank or additional pay.

April 2. Worked all day and spent the evening at Mrs. Hill's. At tea found a very nice Bible on my plate, a birthday present from Miss Bettie.

April 4. Could not get my desire accomplished. Having been ordered to rejoin my regiment I entered the cars at 7 1/4 A. M. Loath to leave both the office and ladies. Capt. A. seemed very sorry that I had to leave, but an order is the law.

April 5. Orange C. H. Reached Gordonsville about 12 yesterday. Had to wait for a train. Reached this place 11 1/2 P. M. Went to the Exchange Hotel. Found the ladies were having a dance, but arrived too late to join in. Could get no room, so took my blanket and bunked in the parlor with about 15 others.

April 6. Left Orange C. H. abt. 6 1/2 P. M. Reached Culpepper C. H. about 8.10 P. M. and concluded to stay all night.

April 7. Left C. C. H. about 12 1/2 P. M. and reached camp about 2 P. M. Found the regiment under arms, as there was a report that the enemy were crossing the Rappahannock which is about 2 miles from camp. It was raining, and as the rumor was false we pitched tents. Rained all day.

April 8 and 9. Raining, hailing and snowing all the time. Very unpleasant to all, but especially to me just from civilized life and the pleasure of ladies' company. Had to do as others did and lie abed all the time to keep warm, my thoughts, of course, rolling back to the times of pleasure and affectionate social intercourse.

April 12. Not allowed to put up tents, ordered to carry them to the car, and put all spare utensils in the car, for what reason no one knows. Pretty considerable frost during the night.

April 13. Raining in the evening and we were ordered to pitch tents.

April 17. The "10th Va." left to join Jackson. Only 1st Md. and 13th Va. now in this Brigade. Col. G. (Gibbons of 10th Va.) said his men would go to the Valley.

April 18. "Fell in" about 5 1/2 P. M. Came on to rain very hard, also hailed. Stood in ranks and took it coolly, singing and hurrahing. About 6 1/2 started for unknown destination. 2.10 A. M. bivouaced on Dr. Taliaferro's farm about 3/4 of a mile E. of Culpepper. The march was very tedious and slow, being on the railroad and very muddy. (Note 9.)



April 19. During the morning marched to Stone House Mountain, 4 miles from C. C. H. on the Newmarket pike. I, with others, then went to look for dinner, knowing that provisions were very scarce. Eat at Mr. Apperson's about 2 m. from the Mountain. On returning found the regiment had left, so started for C. C. H., our orders <sup>28 miles</sup> being changed. Stopped at the Virginia House not knowing positively where the regiment was.

April 20. Left the C. H. for the Rapidan, whither our regiment had gone. Had to march, there being no train. Been cloudy and raining ever since we left camp. I have not been dry since. After going 6 miles was taken aboard a train which had to stop for all soldiers along the road. Found when at Rapidan that the troops had been ordered to Gordonsville. Saw our regiment just before we arrived at Orange C. H. but concluded with others to go on. Arrived at Gordonsville. Could get no lodgings. Jim Grogan and I went out of the village to Dr. Beall's where we slept on the floor in our blankets. Dried myself here and got a boy to wash my feet and give us a cup of coffee. Enjoyed both very much. First time I have had a boy to wash my feet since I left home.

April 21. Still raining. Will get breakfast here. Breakfasted and then went to the village to see if the regiment had come. Had not, so returned to Dr. Beall's. Was invited into the other room, in which we found a young lady, a cousin of Mrs. Beall's. Staid until after dinner, and then went in search of the regiment which had come. Found it in a piece of woods. Still raining but we had a few tents.

April 22. Not much rain during the night. Heavy shower in the morning. Towards night received orders to cook 4 days' rations. Heavy cloud in the evening with wind but no rain.

April 23. Reveille at 4 A. M. Left bivouac at 7. Left Gordonsville about 8 A. M. and marched  $7\frac{1}{4}$  m. on the Madison C. H. pike and <sup>293 miles</sup> halted in a woods to the left about  $11\frac{1}{4}$  A. M. near Somerset (about 4 houses).

April 24. Raining, commenced with snow. Made a bunk with blanket and india rubber but did not trench it, hence, though the rain did not reach me, the water from above running down the slope did. I fell asleep and awoke to feel the water running in a stream from my head to my heels. Geo. pretty much the same. I laid as long as possible on the right side, but finding one side wet and one dry was not comfortable, also being tired of lying on the same side I turned and soon the same operation commenced on that side. A continual stream kept up running through my clothes until morning, when I was called for guard. I then wrung out my drawers and put on my pants, feeling anything but comfortable. Made a different bunk and ditched it.

April 25. Raining.

April 26. Slept pretty comfortably last night. Breakfasted very heartily about 10 A. M. on meat, pea soup, peas, biscuit and molasses. In the evening, with Ned, went to Mr. E. Goss's, a large, fine house

on a hill to the south. Enjoyed a very good, substantial, plentiful supper, the table more profusely laden than I have elsewhere seen. Several very pretty little children at the house.

April 27. Aroused pretty early, expecting to leave at daylight. Left the bivouac about 7 A. M. Marched about 9 miles, and halted for about 1 1/2 hours. Then marched about 1 mile to the west of <sup>109 miles</sup> Stanardsville on the Harrisonburg pike, making in all about 16 miles. We bivouaced about 6 1/4 P. M. Tom Blackiston and I went a mile and a quarter up the pike. Had sour krout for supper and what we bought we paid "two and threepence" apiece.

April 28. Reveille a little before sunrise. Cooked breakfast and some biscuits for the day's march, and did not march. Went foraging. Nearly all the families had left home to see the troops pass, no larger force than five or six hundred ever having gone up this pike.

April 29. All the twelve month volunteers were ordered to elect officers. Col. Johnson said the conscript law applied to us, and if we failed to elect, officers would be appointed. We did not believe the law applied. All the 12 month companies unanimously refused to vote. Since then the Secretary of War has expressly said, "That Marylanders were legally exempt from the law". Johnson went so far as to ask the officers if they would serve if appointed. They all answered, "Not without the full consent of their men. (Entry of April 29th appears in Diary between May 4th -- 15th).

April 30. Again received marching orders. Left about 1 3/4 P. M. Crossed the mountains and bivouaced at the foot near Conrad; I suppose about 9 1/2 P. M. In descending we took a by-road which cut off one mile, making our march 15 miles. The road was very firm and beautifully graded. The engineer certainly deserves credit. It was raining below, but as we ascended we left the rain and entered the cloud itself. When we again got in the valley we had rain.

May 1. Had a fine bath in one of the mountain streams; a tributary of the Shenandoah. All these streams are very clear and swift. I love to listen to them flowing over their rocky beds and watch the many changing eddies. Our "flies" were brought up. Hereafter we expect to use these instead of tents, being more comfortable in summer and more easily transported.

May 4. Companies H and A went on a brigade foraging expedition. No excitement. The march, about 13 miles.

May 15. Left camp 8 1/2 A. M. Marched 16 miles down the river near Columbia bridge. Encamped about 1 1/2 miles south of it. On the road passed the Shenandoah Iron Works. Crossed Naked Creek 6 miles from old camp. The greater part of the road lay along the river. Raining all the time, mud deep, stiff and slippery. Honeytown a short distance from us.

12th Aug. = 370.  
334 miles + 36 (from Aug. 12th) = 370.  
See note page 25

383 miles

399 miles

(16)

May 17. Co. "C" mustered out. Left camp about 7 1/2 A. M., went to the bridge and turned down the Blue Ridge pike towards Harrisonburg and Gordonsville. After marching about 4 miles stopped in an apple orchard just by Mt. Hope Inn. Somehow it leaked out that there was brandy in one of the outhouses. There was a general rush. We found some vinegar and very hard cider. Emptied a large and small barrel. Afterwards some found a barrel of liquor which was soon emptied. I got some of the last, a good deal of both was spilled. In the evening again marched, forded a run knee-deep  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m and reached the summit of the Blue Ridge about dark. The march from camp was 13 1/2 miles.

(17)

May 18. On the summit all day. The sides of the mountain here are quite steep. Just where we are bivouaced there is a small plateau. Some peaks beautifully conical. Very rocky.

May 18. Sunday. Went down the mountain and returned to Columbia bridge. Encamped about 1/2 mile beyond it, on the river.

May 19. Marched 6 miles towards New Market.

May 21. Marched up the mountain 1 1/2 miles and immediately counter-marched and took the Luray road. Halted 2 miles from it. In all about 9 miles. (Note 10.)

Late in the evening Tom Blackiston, Web Sothoron and I went across the river (2 miles) to forage. Had very nice clabber. Met a Miss Rufner and stayed till after 9 P. M.; wished us to stay all night.

May 22. Left camp about 6 1/2 A. M. Passed through Luray and marched towards Front Royal. Encamped near a stream about 9 1/2 miles from Luray, the march being 11 1/2 miles. A heavy shower fell towards the end of the march, converting the dust, which had been almost insupportable, into slippery mud. After breaking ranks T. B. and I went foraging to Mr. Keyser's. Entertained very hospitably. Met Mrs. K. Would receive no pay. Mrs. K. filled my haversack with biscuit. Before supper Mr. K. set out whiskey and honey. First "Kawhaky" I have seen for some time. Being wet I enjoyed it very much. Invited to come again.

May 23. Today ordered to put knapsacks in the wagon. Jackson marches his men light in order to make long and quick marches. Marched 13 1/2 miles without a rest, and all stoppages did not amount to 20 minutes. Attacked the enemy's picket, about 2 miles from Front Royal, double quicked to within 1/4 mile of town (Note 11) and took the run, chasing them through town at a great rate, the ladies cheering us on. (Note 12). Our regiment had the honor of the advance, and of driving them out. A Cav. Co. was with us, the 6th and 7th La. followed us. From our bivouac to town is 15 1/2 miles. The men were almost worn out. To my regret I was forced to stop before I got through town. I had given out. (Note 13). I was very kindly taken care of by the ladies at Mr. Petty's, Mrs. P., Misses Helen, Lotty and little Emma. I staid there all night.

May 24. Today I will try to go on, but am not fit to walk. Went to the regiment (on the way saw Clark's Company. Pleasant meeting). Found it guarding about three or four hundred prisoners of the 487<sup>th</sup> Yankee First Md. Marched them to town and Capt. Murray was detailed to go with them to Richmond. Marched out, and again ordered to take the advance. Marched about 20 miles and halted 7 1/2 miles from Winchester.

May 25. Sunday. Started about 1 1/2 A. M. for Winchester. Skirmishing commenced about 1/2 hour after sunrise. "H" thrown out.

At present being behind a fence in a yard of brick house. Pretty considerable cannonading and every few minutes two or three reports of small arms. Presently, severe musketry -- heavy cannonading -- they run --

We double quick into Winchester. Stop and take possession of stores. March 4 miles out.

May 26. Marched to Bunker Hill, 12 miles from Winchester. Awaiting orders in lot to the east of Bunker Hill.

May 27. To Darksville, 15 miles from Winchester. A little before sunset, fell in. Marched 6 miles. (One mile from Martinsburg). Bivouaced in a field to west of road. I was sent, on guard, to town (Martinsburg).

May 28. Enemy reported to be five miles from town. Marched 3 miles on the Williamsport road. No enemy. Returned and camped in field to east of road. "H" sent to town as Provost guard.

May 29. Ordered up about 3 A. M. Went to camp. Left about 6 1/2 and marched down the Harper's Ferry road to the Winchester and 538<sup>th</sup> Smithfield pike, up that to a road leading to Charlestown. Encamped about 2 1/2 miles from town at Running Springs Mills. Our day's march about 20 miles.

May 30. Marched about 7 miles. Were within 1 1/2 miles of Harper's Ferry. Halted on the hill this side of Bolivar Heights. Some skirmishing. Principally an artillery duel. Yanks fired well. Shell bursting and whizzing all around us. Hot times. A number were in a house in the woods, a shell struck it, and they skedaddled. Johnston and Goldsborough, with five or six men, went to Bolivar Heights. Before this Geo. was sent to the foot of the hill, with skirmishers. After, Companies "H" and "D" were sent, and as skirmishers took possession of the Heights. Five cavalymen fired at us from the Maryland Heights. We must have come pretty close to them, for being at first close together, pretty soon they scattered and sought shelter, still firing. They then shelled us. Having no intention of holding the hill, we retired. Just below the hill they had left two camps with tents standing. Returned to our old bivouacing ground. Rain all day and the marching back very bad. I stopped a mile from camp and slept in a kitchen. One batteryman wounded by minie ball.

May 31. Left camp at 8 A. M. Passed through Charlestown as rearguard. On the 29th every one seemed rejoiced. Now, many ladies were in tears and the men serious. Before we came the Yankees had treated the citizens shamefully, even to striking some ladies with their sabres. The contrast between Martinsburg and Charlestown is truly great. In the one, sorrow at our approach. In the other, tears at our departure. In Smithsfield it was the same. We marched 2 miles beyond Winchester (28 from our camp) on the Strausberg pike. T. and I then stopped and slept in a passage.

June 1. Started about 4 1/2 A. M. Stopped about 1/2 mile further on for breakfast. Found the regiment had marched two miles further than we, making 30 miles. We caught the regiment at the bridge 2 1/2 miles from Strausburg. Heard considerable firing (Millroy <sup>546</sup> or Freemont). They retired. When about 4 miles from the bridge, was told the enemy were closing in on our left. We hurried ahead. I think most of the stragglers got in. Some of ours are missing but may be in town. Now resting in front of brick house in E. part of Strausburg.

June 2. Marched 7 miles beyond Strausburg. Now ahead of the regiment awaiting its approach in the National Hotel in Woodstock. The enemy attacked our rear. Our cavalry behaved shamefully. Joined the regiment. Col. Johnson blocked the street, by wheeling, to prevent the cavalry from having the rear. Marched on. Commenced raining heavily. Ned and I stopped in a house on left. Went a mile further and stopped for the night at Mr. Ripley's, fell in with a 9th Ia.

June 3. Tom came up. All four started ahead. Marched about 2 miles and stopped for breakfast. Passed the regiment unawares. Stopped until it came up. It then formed line of battle. A few shells fired. The bridge over the North Fork of Shenandoah being burned, the Yanks could come no further. Took quarters in a large barn about one mile short of New Market.

June 4. Raining as usual. Marched 5 miles past New Market.

June 5. Two miles past Harrisonburg.

June 6. Left camp for Port Republic. About 4 miles from Harrisonburg our cavalry charged their advance and took forty odd. Our brigade then advanced, expecting to take them by surprise. (Note 14). They were on the look-out and had three regiments and a battalion (the Pennsylvania Bucktail Rifles), one of their crack regiments. They fought well, but when we charged, they ran. We had three regiments and our battalion. Only the 58th Virginia and our battalion were engaged. Our loss (1st Md. Regt.) was heavy, 10 killed and 20 wounded. From our company, 2 killed (Harris and Schley) and 5 wounded. We only had about 200 or 220. Col. Ashby was killed. The firing was terrific, but our little battalion stood manfully and charged with a will. Mike Robertson was killed, also Lieut. Snowden. Mike R., <sup>634</sup> Harris and Schley and some others were buried in the cemetery of



Union Church, Rockingham Co., 5 miles from Port R. Their graves a little to the right of the gate, 8 paces from the rear rank.

June 7. Encamped 1 1/2 miles from Port Republic.

June 8. Went back 2 1/2 miles and fought. Very hot fire. Our regiment lost 23 in wounded, some fatally. We had 3 regiments firing upon us. Went back to camp. (Notes 15 and 16).

June 9. Went 2 miles past P. R. Cooked breakfast. Then to P. R. and three miles past it down the river. In the morning a desperate battle was fought on the ground we passed over. (Note 17). We captured five pieces. Waited until late in the evening to cover the retreat. Marched to top of the ridge through Brown's Gap, 12 miles from P. R.

June 10. To foot of mountain 5 miles. Eat cherries and wild strawberries.

June 12. Returned and encamped about 2 1/2 miles from P. R. and one mile from Weyer's Cave. The march, 14 miles.

June 13. Visited Weyer's Cave. None can help admiring it, though seen under disadvantageous circumstances. The stalactites were all muddy owing to the late rains. We had large crowd and a poor guide; hence I will attempt no description. Left for Staunton.

June 14. Arrived there in the evening. 18 miles. We are here to recruit.

June 15. Went to church in Staunton. Company "I" mustered out. "H" goes in two days. Capt. Barry joined today with about 35 men. After the 18th the regiment will have only about 70 men. Today 146<sup>m</sup>. I dined at Mrs. Forrest's. She lived in the suburbs on very pretty grounds. We expected to pay, of course, but we were invited to dine with the family and they would receive nothing. I had on a pair of shoes which were about equal to none, most of my right foot was out of the shoe. I was amused at Miss F., who, noticing my bare toe showing, could scarcely refrain from laughing. We were invited to call.

June 19. Company "H" mustered out. With the regiment they started by rail for Charlottesville at 12 M. Reached there about 6 1/2 P. M. (Note 18).

June 20. Left about 9 P. M. in cars. Landed at Frederick Hall Station 6 1/2 A. M. June 21st.

June 23. Left about sunset and reached Beaver Dam Sta. late at night, 15 miles. Rained very hard. March awful. Only four men got into camp with the Col.

June 24. Marched about 18 miles.

June 25. Reached the Fair Grounds of Ashland, 15 miles.



June 26. Marched about 15 miles. Were then in rear of the enemy and about 8 miles from Richmond. Had some sharp skirmishing and obtained the position we wished.

June 27. Advanced. Marched a great deal, probably 20 miles and finally came nearly to the left of their right wing where I think they had concentrated for they had been forced to retire from above.

Severe fighting. The musketry was more severe and continuous than I ever heard. Manassas and Cross Keys could not compare. Drove the Yanks back, took their position and occupied the field.

June 28. From present appearances I think it was a bloody battle. Marched about 10 miles and crossed the York River R. R. taking possession, thus cutting off their supplies. Their pickets within musket range. Now and then a shot. Shelled them, they replied. At night marched 2 miles back and returned.

June 29. The whole camp astonished by the sound of cars approaching rapidly from towards Richmond and the enemy. Just as the train came on the bridge, 1/4 mile from us, there was a grand explosion that shook the earth, then there were continued explosions until the next morning. Marched about 5 miles and bivouaced. Raining in torrents, but did not last long.

June 30. Continued the march, 8 miles took us around the swamp and over the Yankee road to the Y. R. R. about 7 miles from Richmond. Crossed the road and went about 3 miles.

July 1. Marched 6 miles and slept on the battlefield.

July 3. Five miles.

July 4. About 10 miles. Skirmishing.

July 5. Relieved and fell back 1 1/2 miles.

July 7. Moved camp 1 mile (on R?) road. Now about 25 miles from Richmond.

July 8. Late in the evening drew in our pickets and marched 6 miles.

July 9. Marched 5 miles and halted for breakfast and to cook. Marched 6 miles further.

July 10. Marched about 10 miles to Mechanicsville. Webb Sothoron & Co. and I left the regiment as we passed Richmond and went into the city.

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END OF FIRST BOOK OF DIARY

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